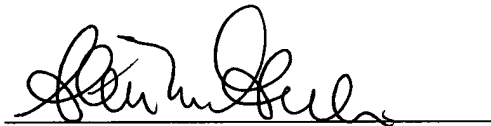


REMARKS

Via the foregoing amendments, claims 3-6 and 8-22 are amended in order to delete the multiple dependent claim format, and reduce the concomitant filing fee therefor.

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested, and an examination on the merits in due course is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 15, 2004